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BOOK REVIEWS.

THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC AND ITS GOVERNMENT.—By James Albert Woodburn. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1903. pp. v, 410.

In a well-worked field it is difficult to present the subject of Civics in a new light, yet Professor Woodburn has marked out a somewhat new field and has produced an excellent treatise. Bryce's American Commonwealth is confessedly the model after which he has constructed a work of much smaller dimensions. The aim of the work is best expressed by the author's own words: "With a view to this larger study of American politics, and as leading up to it, it seems to me necessary to recognize that between the field for the elementary text books in Civics and that of the advances in the universities that call for special and extensive study in works like that of Mr. Bryce, there is an intermediate field. My effort has been to fill this gap, to provide an intermediate book for advanced courses in high schools or for elementary courses in colleges. It is believed that in this field of Civics there are two classes of students well prepared for more advanced work than is ordinarily pursued in high school, whose interest will be more easily and effectively aroused and sustained by a somewhat elaborate discussion of the more important subjects in the study of the American Government and its principles. For this purpose it seems better to present more extensive treatment of fewer subjects than to reconsider the great variety of miscellaneous topics usually contained in the books on elementary Civics."

Thus only a small number of subjects are taken up and these are treated with considerable fullness. Under the caption of the Principles of the Fathers are set forth the principles of our government as conceived by those who founded it, as set forth in their writings. The nature of the federal nation is treated with considerable fullness. The following four chapters deal with the president, the senate, the house of representatives, and the judiciary. One chapter is given to the state. Any consideration of local government is omitted. In spite of the author's declared intention to deal with the subject intensively instead of extensively, it seems a matter of regret that he did not find space for a chapter discussing the principles of local government. In most treatises on Civics either too much or too little space is devoted to this subject. We suffer from authors who give us too much history on the one hand and from the compilers of handbooks on the other. It is doubtful if the happy medium has been struck yet. The last subject treated is that of territorial government which is timely as it deals with our relations to our new possessions. A rather inexcusable slip is found in the fact that the book was allowed to go to press with the thrice-repeated assumption that the Danish West Indies had already been ceded to the United States. It is hardly safe to anticipate history, although history may soon verify the author.

The book is a valuable and scholarly one, yet it is doubtful whether it is not too difficult for even the most advanced classes in the high school. The ability to make a scholarly treatise clear to immature minds is an art in itself.

A TREATISE ON THE POWER OF TAXATION, STATE AND FEDERAL, IN THE UNITED STATES.—By Frederick N. Judson. St. Louis: The F. H. Thomas Law Book Co. 1903. pp. xxiii, 908.

The many important tax cases which have been decided by the courts, and especially by the Supreme Court of the United States, within the past few years, have rendered the standard works on the law of taxation so antiquated as to be almost useless on many questions. Mr. Judson's work was therefore needed, and, fortunately, it compares favorably with its predecessors. The limitations upon the taxing power dealt with in the text are only those of the National Constitution and those resulting from the dual form of government; but the text is supplemented by an appendix which includes a convenient compilation of the more important provisions of the State constitutions bearing upon taxation. These restrictions upon the taxing power of the State legislatures might well have been made the subject of more extended comment; but Mr. Judson has left the development of this part of the subject to other writers. It may be of some interest to note that the author of this work is also the author of an authoritative "Treatise upon the Law and Practice of Taxation in Missouri," and that he is prominent as a tax reformer, as well as in his profession, being a member of the Civic Federation Taxation Committee, of which Professor Seligman is chairman.

A TREATISE ON COMMERCIAL PAPER AND THE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS LAW.—By James W. Eaton and Frank B. Gilbert. Albany: Matthew Bender. 1903. pp. xciii, 767.

For the practising lawyer, this is the most desirable one-volume treatise on Commercial Paper, which has come under our notice. The law-student will also find it well adapted to his needs. While the text is based upon the Negotiable Instruments Statute, the doctrines, which have been modified by this legislation, are carefully stated either in the text or the notes. Undoubtedly, the book is especially suited to the requirements of the profession in the twenty and more jurisdictions where the Negotiable Instruments Law prevails, but it is a safe work in any jurisdiction.

The notes are especially valuable. They are not made up of masses of cited cases, although their array of this sort of authority is formidable. They are replete with pertinent quotations from other treatises, with the forms of equivocal or unusual instruments which have been construed by the courts, and with well-selected extracts from leading cases. They give unmistakable evidence of wide reading, of careful thinking and of sound judgment on the part of the authors.

THE HEALTH OFFICERS' MANUAL.—By L. L. Bayer. Albany: Matthew Bender. 1902. pp. xii, 289.

The Health Officers' Manual is little but a reprint of the Public Health Law of the State of New York, in some cases amended up to